

Town Council Meeting

August 11, 2020

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on August 11, 2020 in the Town Municipal building with the Honorable Allen D. Smith, Mayor, presiding: Councilmember's in attendance were Ronald Mattox, Johnnie Brame, James G. Elam, Jr., Christopher Garrett, Sandra Jones and Chris Gill. Also attending were Town Manager Rodney Newton, Treasurer Diane Harding, Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Police Chief H. Keith Phillips. Absent was Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to go in to Public Hearing on a Proposed Parade/Event Ordinance. Motion carried. Town Manager Rodney Newton proposed two revisions:

- Page 2- Section. Issuance of Permit- revised #6. "reasonable" to "unreasonable"
- Page 4-Section. Appeal Procedure-revised second sentence to include. "Any costs associated with the appeal will be at the expense of the applicant."

No comments were made.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Jones to come out of Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith called the meeting of the Town Council to order.

The invocation was given by Councilmember Mattox followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Councilmember Elam asked to speak about Main and 8th Street parking. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Elam as item 10(g). Councilmember Jones had a citizen traffic complaint of large trucks on Mecklenburg Avenue. Mayor Smith added councilmember Jones as item 10(h).

Mayor Smith asked if there were any Conflicts of Interest on matters being discussed on the agenda. No comments.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to accept the July 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised the Resolution of Appreciation for Mayor Watson is included in the official minute book. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garratt to accept the Treasurer's report for July 2020. Motion carried.

Chief H. Keith Phillips gave the Police Report. Chief Phillips stated they had another busy month with 85 calls, 14 citations and 5 arrests. Chief Phillips advised everything was going good and everyone was taking proper steps to stay well during COVID-19. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Town Manger Rodney Newton gave the Fire/Rescue Department Report. He stated the Financial Report reflected three pay periods for the month of July 2020 however, they will be receiving funds from a grant for PPE and the county CARES Act. They had 96 calls and Station 7 with 50 calls in Kenbridge totaling 146 calls. Mr. Newton mentioned they are working with two dates in September and October for the possibility of the Truck/Tractor Pull this year. There were no questions regarding the budget. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Fire Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to adopt the Parade/Event Ordinance with Town Manager Rodney Newtons two additions. Motion carried.

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- b) Town Manager Rodney Newton provided council with a DEQ Draft Consent Order for the West Wastewater Treatment Plant and compliance issues. The civil penalty has been reduced by 50% to \$2,310.00. Also, councilmember Mattox brought to Mr. Newtons attention in Appendix B, the interim date for Effluent Limitation was set to expire 12/31/2021. That has been changed to 12/31/2022 to coincide with the construction dates.
- c) Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to approve the \$2.00 increase for sewer rates effective October 1, 2020. Motion carried.
- d) Mr. Newton advised due to recent changes in the Code of Virginia, the General Assembly passed more laws that effect members of the Industrial Development Authorities (IDA). All are required to submit Statements of Economics Interest annually and participate in conflict of interest training every two years. He stated this involves completing a 25 page disclosure document. As a result of this, the IDA of the TOV has had three members to resign. They are Freddy Anderson, Hardy Jones and Gail Berkley. Also, one member has not made contact with the town office as of August 7, 2020. Mr. Newton advised the following members have filed statements: Mike Walker, Chairman, Greg Elam and Jay Dayton. Va. Code 15.2-4904(A) establishes the number of members on an IDA which is seven. However, Goochland County and the County of Coeburn have been allowed to reduce the number of members to five. Mr. Newton proposed to council to also reduce our IDA to five members but this would require action by the General Assembly. Councilmembers will advise further at the September council meeting so a letter can be drafted to send to Delegate Wright and Senator Ruff as soon as possible.
- e) Mr. Newton requested a Public Hearing for the sale of property at 1700 Needham Drive once the house is removed and the lot cleared. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to have a Public Hearing on September 8, 2020 council meeting so Mr. Newton can finalize the sale. Motion carried.
- f) Councilmember Elam addressed the parking on Main and 8th Street whereby, business owners and tenants of the apartment building are parking on the street in front of the town office and ATM machine all day instead of parking in lot behind the business or apartment building. Councilmember Elam requested only one or two hour parking in front of the town office and Victoria Restaurant just like Victoria Drug Co. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Garret to authorize Town Manager Rodney Newton and Police Chief Phillips to put up signs at the Victoria Restaurant and Town Office. Motion carried.
- g) Councilmember Jones addressed a citizen complaint of large trucks on Mecklenburg Avenue and the safety of children in the area. Councilmember Jones advised trucks are traveling up and down at high rates of speed. Town Manager Newton advised the state cannot impede interstate commerce from traveling in residential areas. Councilmember Jones gave the information to Chief Phillips to investigate the speeding violations.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton provided council with a COVID-19 and Infectious Disease Prevention Plan. This is required by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry and is effective until January 15, 2021 unless this date is changed by DOLI.
- b) Mr. Newton advised the closing of the Medical building on 6th Street was held on July 27, 2020. Southern Dominion Health Services bought the Medical building and will be renovating to use as a dentist office. The town had \$500.00 in legal fees with a net of \$69,500.00 on the sale.
- c) Mr. Newton advised if anyone is interested in the CARES Act for Small Business grants to refer them to the Lunenburg County website to fill out an application. The deadline is September 20, 2020. The website is lunenburgva.net.
- d) Mr. Newton complimented all town employees especially the town office employees recently as they have been good ambassadors for the town with continuous DMV customers due to most offices are open by appointment only. Mr. Newton advised in

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FY19 the total transactions were \$397,123.08. The total transactions for FY20 were \$468,361.57. In the last six days, the office has conducted \$53,712.68 in transactions. Mayor Smith and town councilmembers along with Mr. Newton applauded the employee's for all their hard work.

- e) Mr. Newton advised he is currently working on a Grant to replace the roof at the STEPS building and part of the proceeds of the building sale will be used as match if awarded.
- f) Mr. Newton discussed the Preliminary Engineering Report for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. He is scheduled to meet with B&B Consultants next week to go over the report and ask questions. They have offered two options:
 - Upgrade both East and West facilities
 - Upgrade East facility and close West facility

Mr. Newton advised copies of the report will be distributed to council next week for review. Mr. Newton recommended a special meeting or work session to discuss the alternatives. The estimated cost is between \$3.1M to \$5.5M. Mr. Newton was able to finalize one grant with the Fed and will apply for another grant with the State in September. The PER Report has to be submitted to DEQ by September 1, 2020. A work session is scheduled for August 24, 2020 at 6:30pm at the town office.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting.

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved September 8, 2020

Rodney Newton, Town Manager